Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 227000 ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 L-03 COME-00 /026 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, DA, NO, SW

SUBJECT:: CIVAIR: SAS AND NORTHWEST FARE FILINGS

REF: A) COPENHAGEN 5630 B) COPENHAGEN 5367 C) STOCKHOLM 3228

- 1. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO TRANSMIT SOONEST, AND IN ANY EVENT NLT SEPTEMBER 9, NOTICE OF DISSATISFACTION WITH RECENT SAS FILINGS TO APPROPRIATE GON, GOS, AND GOD OFFICIALS.
- 2. SUGGESTED TEXT:

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QUOTE ON AUGUST 25, SAS FILED TARIFF REVISIONS FOR EFFECTIVENESS OCTOBER 1, 1978-MARCH 31, 1979, PROPOSING NEW MINI-FARES FOR ROUNDTRIP TRAVEL BETWEEN COPENHAGEN, OSLO, STOCKHOLM, GOTHENBURG/NEW YORK CITY. NOTICE OF DISSATISFACTION WITH THIS FILING IS HEREBY GIVEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH:

FOR DENMARK: ARTICLE 13 OF THE AMENDMENT OF AUGUST 6, 1954, TO THE US-DENMARK AIR TRANSPORT SERVICES AGREEMENT;

FOR NORWAY: ARTICLE 13 OF THE AMENDMENT OF AUGUST 6, 1954,

TO THE US-NORWAY AIR TRANSPORT SERVICES AGREEMENT:

FOR SWEDEN: ARTICLE 13 OF THE AGREEMENT OF AUGUST 6, 1954 TO THE US-SWEDEN AIR TRANSPORT SERVICES AGREEMENT.

THIS NOTICE DOES NOT NECESSARILY INDICATE THAT THE USG INTENDS TO SUSPEND THE FARE IN QUESTION. UNQUOTE

- 3. NORTHWEST INFORMS DEPARTMENT IT HAS DIRECTED ITS SCANDINAVIAN DIRECTOR TO APPEAL THE SWEDISH AND DANISH DECISIONS RE NORTHWEST FILING. NW HAS REQUESTED RECONSIDERATION, AND APPROVAL OF ITS FARES AS FILED. IN ADDITION, IT HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO OFFER THE FARES FOR A FULL 12 MONTH PERIOD PERIOD EFFECTIVE FROM THE DATE THAT NORTHWEST INAGURATES SERVICE BETWEEN SCANDINAVIA AND THE U.S. (NW ESTIMATES IT WILL INAGURATE SERVICE IN MARCH OR APRIL, 1979.)
- 4. AT SAME TIME THAT NOTICES OF DISSATISFACTION ARE SERVED, EMBASSIES COPENHAGEN, STOCKHOLM SHOULD DELIVER THE FOLLOWING NOTE TO APPROPRIATE HOST GOVERNMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OFFICIALS. QUOTE COMPLIMENTS AND HAS THE HONOR TO REFER TO RECENT DECISIONS BY THE (SWEDISH) (DANISH) GOVERNMENT CONCERNING FARES FILED BY NORTHWEST ORIENT AIRLINES FOR TRAVEL BETWEEN VARIOUS POINTS IN THE UNITED STATES AND SCANDINAVIA. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE NORTHWEST FILING SINCE IT WILL MAKE AVAILABLE THE BENEFITS OF LOW COST AIR SERVICE FOR TRAVEL BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND SCANDINAVIA. WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT FOR LOW AIR FARES GIVEN BY THE (SWEDISH) (DANISH) GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, WE ARE CONCERNED THAT THE NORTHWEST FILING HAS RECEIVED ONLY LIMITED APPROVAL FROM THE (SWEDISH) (DANISH) GOVERNMENT, I.E. IT HAS BEEN APPROVED ONLY FOR TRAVEL FROM NEW YORK TO SCANDINAVIA, AND ITS PERIOD OF VALIDITY HAS BEEN

RESTRICTED TO ONLY SIX MONTHS.

WE NOTE THAT NORTHWEST REQUESTED APPROVAL TO OFFER THE FARE FROM BOSTON, DETROIT, MINNEAPOLIS, AND SEATTLE, AS WELL AS NEW YORK, AND IT REQUESTED APPROVAL FOR A FULL TWELVE MONTH PERIOD FROM THE DATE WHEN IT

INAGURATES SERVICE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT NORTHWEST HAS APPEALED THIS DECISION AND HAS REQUESTED THAT ITS FARE BE APPROVED AS FILED WITH A VALIDITY PERIOD OF TWELVE MONTHS. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT STRONGLY SUPPORTS

THE NORTHWEST APPEAL AND REQUESTS THAT IT BE GIVEN FAVORABLE, EXPEDITIOUS CONSIDERATION.

WE NOTE, IN THIS REGARD, THAT SAS HAS RECENTLY FILED FARES AT LEVELS MATCHING THE NORTHWEST FARES, BUT FROM OSLO AND GOTHENBURG AS WELL AS COPENHAGEN AND STOCKHOLM. THE US GOVERNMENT WELCOMES THIS INITIATIVE BY SAS TO EXTEND THE BENEFITS OF LOW COST AIR SERVICE TO POINTS BEYOND COPENHAGEN AND STOCKHOLM. WE ASSUME, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND WOULD APPRECIATE PROMPT CONFIRMATION OF THIS ASSUMPTION, THAT IN A SPIRIT OF RECIPROCITY, THE (SWEDISH) (DANISH) GOVERNMENT WILL RECONSIDER ITS DECISION AND QUICKLY APPROVE THE NORTHWEST FILING FOR POINTS BEYOND NEW YORK. IT IS OUR BELIEF THAT OFFERING SUCH LOWER FARES MORE WIDELY WILL BENEFIT THE TRAVELING PUBLIC, AND WILL BENEFIT THE AIRLINES THROUGH INCREASED TRAFFIC GENERATION.

CLOSING. UNQUOTE.

- 5. A FURTHER QUESTION CONCERNS THE ROLE OF PUBLIC OPINION IN THIS MATTER. WE ARE CONCERNED AT HOW THIS ISSUE IS CURRENTLY BEING TREATED IN THE SCANDINAVIAN PRESS, AND WE WOULD WELCOME EMBASSIES' SUGGESTIONS AS TO BEST WAY TO PUT FULL STORY BEFORE PUBLIC IF THAT BECOMES NECESSARY.
- 6. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSIES REQUESTED IMMEDIATELY SERVE NOTICES OF DISSATISFACTION AS OUTLINED PARA 2 FOREGOING, AND DELIVER NOTES AS OUTLINED PARA 4. IN ADDITION, DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE SOONEST EMBASSIES RECOMMENDATIONS RE PARA 5 FOREGOING. CHRISTOPHER

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Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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